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## Dissuading Young Potential Terrorists

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# Dissuading Young Potential Terrorists

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## Research Summary

### Question:

- Can mentorship of at-risk youth inoculate adolescents from joining gangs or terrorist groups? If so, what are the best practices?

### Hypothesis:

- At-risk youth that are exposed to mentorship programs throughout the world where they develop sincere and lasting relationships with their mentors will be less vulnerable to being drawn into a gang or terrorist group.

### Methods:

- Joseph Campbell's *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, and the hero's journey serves as the framework of analysis for the mentor programs around the world, and specifically how a mentor inserts themselves into the life of an at-risk youth.

### Impact Statement:

- Potentially decrease the number of terrorists on the battlefield by reaching adolescents who may be susceptible to joining these organizations.

## Anticipated Application of Research

### Participants:

- Target Audience: Policy Makers who may be interested in funding such programs, Military personnel who interact with Civilian organizations that run mentorship programs
- Researcher: LT Jay Mann

### Key Deliverables:

- Best Practices for Mentorship of at-risk youth

## Findings

The examined mentor programs and relationships revealed some positive effects; however, the results are unclear because the programs have only been recently implemented—more time is required to understand lasting results. Not all at-risk youth will benefit from mentorship; however, the programs' efforts enable some misguided youth the opportunity to live a life free of crime.